Datums.com
Derivatives Ai Translations of Uploaded Multimedia Sources

Trump’s Second Term Is Already the Most-Failed Presidential Term in U.S. History

The Discrepancy Between DOGE Claims and Fiscal Reality

The second term of the Trump administration is facing intense scrutiny following reports that its primary cost-cutting initiative, the **Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)**, has failed to deliver its promised results. Although the group claimed to have made over 29,000 cuts to the federal government—including the cancellation of billion-dollar contracts and thousands of grants—federal spending did not decrease by the targeted $1 trillion. Instead, under DOGE’s supervision, overall federal spending actually increased.

Independent analyses suggest that many of the savings claimed by DOGE were fundamentally incorrect. While the group implemented thousands of smaller cuts that affected foreign aid, small businesses, and local service providers, these reductions were negligible relative to the total federal budget. In one instance, a review of DOGE’s published list of canceled contracts revealed that the 13 largest claims were entirely inaccurate. Consequently, experts indicate that the initiative will likely result in a **net loss** for the U.S. government rather than the significant savings initially advertised.

Flawed Accounting and Overstated Savings

The gap between DOGE’s public claims and actual fiscal impact is largely attributed to flawed accounting practices. Procurement experts noted that the agency calculated savings based on the "ceiling," or maximum potential value, of contracts rather than the "obligations," which represent the actual amount the government was committed to spending.

For example, DOGE’s largest individual listed saving of **$2.9 billion** involved the cancellation of a contract for a migrant housing facility in Texas. However, this figure was based on speculative projections through 2028 for a contract that was subject to annual review and never guaranteed. Sources familiar with the contract estimated that the actual, documentable savings from early termination were only approximately $153 million. Overall, while DOGE claimed up to $214 billion in total savings, nonpartisan experts found verifiable savings to be as low as **$5 billion**.

The Hidden Costs of Implementation

Beyond overstated savings, the implementation of DOGE’s policies introduced substantial new costs. Independent analyses by organizations such as the Partnership for Public Service estimate that the direct and indirect costs of these actions could reach **$135 billion**. These expenses stem from:

1. **Labor and Productivity Issues:** Costs associated with putting thousands of federal employees on paid leave, the administrative burden of documenting weekly tasks, and the necessity of rehiring workers who were mistakenly fired.
2. **Legal and Administrative Fees:** Expenditures related to defending multiple lawsuits challenging DOGE’s actions.

3. **Revenue Loss:** Significant staffing cuts at revenue-generating agencies, particularly the **IRS and the Department of Justice Tax Division**, are projected to lead to hundreds of billions in lost tax revenue over the next decade due to reduced enforcement.

Despite these cuts to discretionary programs, total government spending continued to rise because mandatory expenditures in areas like Social Security and Medicare—which DOGE did not target—continued to grow.

Systemic Disruption of Essential Public Services

The aggressive nature of the budget cuts has led to widespread disruption of critical public functions. Reports indicate that various agencies have faced severe operational hurdles, including:

- **Public Health and Safety:** Reductions in funding inhibited local responses to measles outbreaks, halted research on black lung in coal miners, and shut down CDC labs tracking viral hepatitis.
- **Infrastructure and Disaster Relief:** Unclear orders regarding the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) blocked disaster relief funds for victims in multiple states, and staff cuts at the National Forest Service reduced firefighting capacity ahead of wildfire season.
- **Medical Innovation:** Layoffs at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) delayed breakthroughs in cancer treatments and threatened the American biotech industry.
- **Food and Consumer Protection:** The FDA suspended food quality testing due to staff shortages, and enforcement of penalties on tobacco sales to minors was severely weakened.

Furthermore, over 20 civil service technology employees resigned in protest, stating they refused to use their expertise to dismantle public services they had sworn to uphold.

Budgetary Priorities vs. Public Sentiment

A significant disconnect exists between the administration's budgetary focus and the priorities of the American public. While the administration has prioritized increasing spending for **Defense and Homeland Security**, polling indicates that these are the areas the public is least supportive of expanding. Instead, an overwhelming majority of U.S. adults favor increased spending for Social Security, Medicare, education, and assistance to the poor.

The military-industrial complex remains a focal point of government waste, yet it is largely shielded from DOGE's efforts. Approximately 53% of the annually authorized federal budget is allocated to the military, including the Defense Department, which remains the only federal department that has never been audited. Rather than addressing this unaudited $900 billion sector, the administration has focused its cuts on the remaining 47% of the budget, specifically targeting discretionary spending for the poor and vulnerable.

The Erosion of Democratic Legitimacy

The administration's shift toward policies that benefit billionaires and political megadonors over the general public suggests a decline in democratic legitimacy. Scientific studies have shown that U.S. government actions often align more closely with the desires of the wealthy than with the preferences of the average citizen. This environment of corruption is further evidenced by international policies aimed at pressuring allies to increase military expenditures, thereby enriching the global armaments industry.

Ultimately, the failure of the second Trump term is defined by a reliance on misinformation regarding "waste, fraud, and abuse" to mask a budget that serves private interests at the expense of national stability and public welfare. By prioritizing the expansion of military power and the protection of billionaire wealth over essential public services, the administration has created a fiscal and social environment that many experts consider the most failed in American history.

In this context, the administration’s efficiency drive is comparable to a homeowner who burns down their house to save on the cost of property taxes; while the specific expense is eliminated, the resulting loss of shelter and value far outweighs the meager savings achieved.